

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: TORII, et al.

Filed: July 31, 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING SAMPLES

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

July 31, 2001

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application, prior to examination thereof, as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the paragraph at page 1, lines 1-5 (beginning after the title "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION") and substitute therefor the following new paragraph:

--This application is a Continuation application of application Serial No. 08/470,443, filed June 6, 1995, which is a Continuation-in-part application of application Serial No. 07/638,378, filed January 7, 1991, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety, which is a Divisional application of application Serial No. 477,474, filed February 9, 1990.--

REMARKS

Applicants have amended their specification to set forth all prior applications of the above-identified application, being relied upon under 35 USC 120, consistent with the requirements of 35 USC 120. It is respectfully submitted that this amendment of the specification clearly does not add new matter to the application.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made in the specification by the current Preliminary Amendment. This marked-up version is on the attached page which is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE".

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 503.28546CV9) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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WIS/slk

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph at page 1, lines 1-5 (beginning after the title "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION"), has been amended as follows:

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